

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 225

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGE , ECOSOC, UN, CH

SUBJECT: 58TH ECOSOC: ELECTIONS - SOVIET CHALLENGE TO CHILE

1. IN COURSE OF ECOSOC ELECTION MAY 6, SOVIETS INSISTED ON SECRET BALLOT FOR AGREED LA SLATES WHEN CHILE WAS ONE OF THE CANDIDATES. ISSUE FIRST CAME UP IN ELECTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WHERE CUBA AND CHILE WERE CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO LA SLOTS. CUBA ELECTED BUT CHILE FAILED TO OBTAIN NECESSARY MAJORITY OF VOTES. THUS ONE LA SEAT REMAINS TO BE FILLED IN SECOND ROUND OF ELECTIONS SCHEDULED MAY 7. SOVIETS REPEATED TACTIC IN ELECTION FOR COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC) WHERE CHILE WAS SOLE LA CANDIDATE FOR LA SEAT. IN THIS INSTANCE CHILE MANAGED TO OBTAIN MAJORITY OF VOTES AND WAS ELECTED.

2. BRAZILIAN REP TOOK FLOOR IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF LA GROUP TO PROTEST THE FACT THAT CONTRARY TO TRADITION OF ECOSOC, CANDIDATES ON AGREED LA SLATES WERE STILL SUBJECTED TO SECRET BALLOT. HE THREATENED TO INSIST ON SECRET BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS AND DID SO IN CASE OF CPC. HOWEVER, IN SUBSEQUENT ELECTION HE SIMPLY NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT HE WAS NOT REQUESTING A SECRET BALLOT.

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3. INTERESTINGLY, CHILEANS HAD REALLY NOT PLANNED TO RUN

FOR HRC AND DID SO ONLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF LA CANDIDATES.
CHILEAN REP TOLD MISOFF THAT ELECTION TO CPC REPRESENTED
FIRST ELECTION OF CHILEAN REP TO A UN BODY SINCE NEW
REGIME TOOK OVER. THEY INTEND TO PERSUE THEIR CANDIDATURE
FOR THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF MAKING EVERY
EFFORT TO ROUND UP THE NECESSARY VOTES. THE DANGER THEY
SEE IS THAT SOVIETS WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE ANOTHER LA
COUNTRY TO RUN.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET TACTIC, IF PUSHED TO EXTREME, COULD
WRECK TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF REGIONAL SLATE ELECTIONS
IN ECOSOC. IN CPC ELECTION NOTED ABOVE, SEVERAL DELS
INDICATED THEIR PIQUE BY NOT VOTING FOR EES CANDIDATES
(WHO WERE NEVERTHELESS ELECTED). END COMMENT
BENNETT

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